

Thursday August 8 1996

Asia Dated D 8.00
Africa L 2.00
Americas FF 10
Australia AU 10.00
Brazilian BR 0.65
Canada CA 10.00
Czech Republic KC20
Denmark DK 10
Eurozone E 10.00
France FF 10
Germany D 10.00
Greece GR 10.00
Hong Kong HK 2.00
India IN 10.00
Japan J 10.00
Korea KR 10.00
Latin America LA 10.00
Middle East ME 10.00
New Zealand NZ 10.00
Oceania O 10.00
Pakistan PK 10.00
Philippines PH 10.00
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USA US 2.75

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,626

Ruaridh Nicoll on our new neighbours

Welcome to Mars

G2 with Europlan

Jack Nicholson talks to Derek Malcolm

Women, me and movies

G2 pages 10/11

Online

Neville Brody redesigns the Web

G2 pages 10/11

Advisers accused of putting election win in jeopardy with macho image

Short plays Blair's 'dark men'

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

CLARE Short, the controversial shadow Cabinet minister, last night accused her leader's advisers of jeopardising Labour's chance of victory at the general election and threatening its existence.

from her new post as shadow minister for overseas development — comes a day after a Guardian poll showed the Labour lead ebbing away.

Tony Blair as two people — one an authentic likeable figure, the other a Frankenstein creation of the 'people in the dark'.



Clare Short, who says Tony Blair's advisers are making the Labour Party look as if it does not stand for anything

Short shrift

'If we don't win, it will be the end of Labour as a party of power at least for a generation, if not for ever'

'I think the obsession with the media and the focus groups is making us look as if we want power at any price'

'Blair came along as a fresh, young, principled and decent man and some people are trying to turn him into macho man, not seeming decent and principled'

'Tony and I had a get-together. I had a talk with nice Tony Blair. I really like that one. I think that's the real one.' Of the other Tony Blair, the macho figure: 'I think he comes out in the dark'

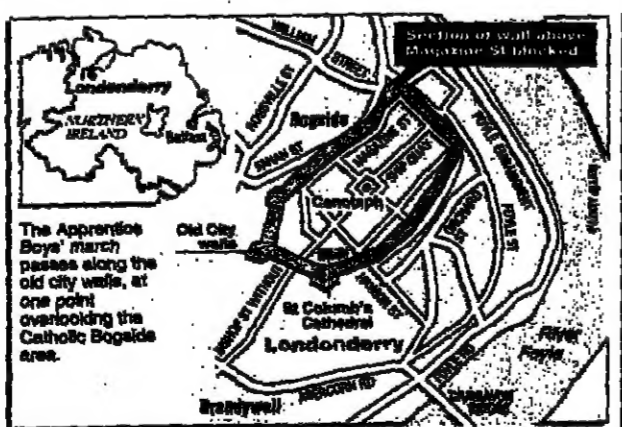
'I've had this experience of people who are meant to be on my side, one of whom I thought was a really good friend, being dishonest and trying to hurt and damage me.'

Town walls shut to stop marchers

Mayhew public order move angers defiant Apprentice Boys

David Shearlock, Ireland Correspondent

TENSION was rising across Northern Ireland last night as Unionists reacted furiously to a lightning security force operation to seal off a section of Londonderry's historic walls in response to the Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew's decision to re-route the Protestant Apprentice Boys' parade this weekend.



until the end of August, whereas responsibility for a controversial Orange parade at Drumcree last month was left to the RUC chief constable, Sir Hugh Amessley.

'Maybe we're all Martians, now'

North Walker in Washington

THEIR awe tinged with scientific caution, a panel of American scientists formally declared their belief yesterday that they had found "evidence of past life on Mars", and immediately invited colleagues around the world to prove them wrong.



Research teams at Manchester University and the Open University at Milton Keynes are also studying fragments of the rock.

Inside

Britain

A Tory-dominated committee of MPs brushed aside ministers' attempts to defuse rows over paying for long-term care of the elderly.

World News

Russia's battered armed forces were forced into bloody street fighting to try to win back the Chechen capital from separatists.

Finance

Takeover fever returned to the electricity industry with reports that a US company would bid \$2 billion for East Midlands Electricity.

Sport

Stewart will open with Atherton and England are likely to omit Inani and Salisbury for the Headingley Test against Pakistan.

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Rail, TV and Weather 16

There was when a higher standard of education used to guarantee a higher standard of living. And it still can. At Voluntary Service Overseas, we now have 1,900 volunteers from engineers to doctors, sharing their knowledge everywhere from Kenya to China.



With the temperature nudging 120, the last thing you'd think Ghana needed was a few more degrees

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Sketch

Graying shades of red and white



James Meek

IT HAD been a week of bad omens for Russia's communists: not only had a small boy been killed in eastern Siberia by a toppling statue of Lenin, but Pravda had gone tabloid. So supporters might have been permitted to feel a certain apprehension as they held the founding congress of the Popular-Patriotic Union of Russia with their nationalist allies in central Moscow. But there was little sign of anything untoward as the delegates' old heads bobbed over their little jotters as they noted down the rhetoric from the platform in the Cyrillic alphabet. Apart from the wringing and gnashing, it could have been a school dictation class. Sorry, no dictators here. You'll find the dictators — or "democrats", as the communist-nationalist opposition disparagingly calls Boris Yeltsin's supporters — up the road in the Kremlin. The forces which robbed Gennady Zyuganov's communist-nationalist alliance of election victory were not just dishonest media manipulators, but enemies of Russia, traitors, agents of the West. But when one speaker said they were the real heirs of the Bolsheviks, the tensions inherent in the alliance became evident. Moments later one woman won wild applause when she declared that in her district — "the reddest district of all" — people looked on those who had not voted communist as if they were carriers of cholera. After Mr Yeltsin's campaign to demonise the communists, the demonisation of the democrats — and by extension the portrayal of the 40 million people who had voted for Mr Yeltsin as gullible fools — had a soothing effect on delegates in the small, anonymous rented hall. Flags or symbols of any kind

were strangely absent. Even the congress voting cards had been blanched from red to white. But the earnest, complacent atmosphere changed when the brooding figure of the author Stanislav Govoryukhin began to speak. Admired for his searing portrait of Russia's spiritual decay, *We Cannot Live Like This*, he is not a communist but supported Mr Zyuganov during the elections. After a few minutes, some of the dutiful note-takers slowed down. They looked at what they had written and frowned. Mr Govoryukhin had found another enemy and the enemy seemed to be, well, people like them. "Orthodox communists," he was calling them. What was all this about millions of Russian soldiers being thrown into Hitler's hands by a green paper in May, the committee said: "We regret the Government's failure to provide even rough-and-ready costings of its various options. Until such costings are provided, the taxpayer is in effect being invited to sign a blank cheque." The proposals are designed to enable people to avoid having to sell their homes to pay for long-term care by offering protection of assets in return for purchase of private insurance. A person who bought £40,000 insurance cover would get up to £60,000 protection on top of the £16,000 maximum available now. The committee says in a report that while such schemes may benefit some people, it is impossible to make any proper judgment because of the Government's refusal to provide costings — even when asked by the committee to do so. "For the foreseeable future, many people will either be too poor to be able to afford such schemes, or too lacking in assets to need them," the report states. "We would be worried by any suggestion that partnership schemes are 'the answer' to the problems of long-term care funding." The MPs are even more damning of the Government's other main idea, that people should be allowed to opt for a smaller initial occupational pension on retirement in return for a larger sum later which would be used to fund any long-term care. The report says the idea "does not offer a convincing solution to the problem of fully funding long-term care, at any rate for other than a minority of rich people". It calls for pensions to be kept separate from any mechanism for meeting care costs. Although the committee acknowledges a widespread perception that arrangements for long-term care funding are unfair — not least because people do not see their home as an asset in the same sense as savings — it says that reports of a crisis in paying for such care are unsound or "downright alarmist". Britain does not face as

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

ATTEMPTS by ministers to defuse controversy over payment for long-term care of elderly people were yesterday humbly brushed aside by a Conservative-dominated committee of MPs. The Commons health select committee said the Government's proposals for partnership schemes, whereby the state would match any private insurance cover for long-term care, would be "at best a useful part" of a broader package that required further thought. In scathing comments about ministers' presentation of the consultative proposals, launched with a fanfare in a green paper in May, the committee said: "We regret the Government's failure to provide even rough-and-ready costings of its various options. Until such costings are provided, the taxpayer is in effect being invited to sign a blank cheque." The proposals are designed to enable people to avoid having to sell their homes to pay for long-term care by offering protection of assets in return for purchase of private insurance. A person who bought £40,000 insurance cover would get up to £60,000 protection on top of the £16,000 maximum available now. The committee says in a report that while such schemes may benefit some people, it is impossible to make any proper judgment because of the Government's refusal to provide costings — even when asked by the committee to do so. "For the foreseeable future, many people will either be too poor to be able to afford such schemes, or too lacking in assets to need them," the report states. "We would be worried by any suggestion that partnership schemes are 'the answer' to the problems of long-term care funding." The MPs are even more damning of the Government's other main idea, that people should be allowed to opt for a smaller initial occupational pension on retirement in return for a larger sum later which would be used to fund any long-term care. The report says the idea "does not offer a convincing solution to the problem of fully funding long-term care, at any rate for other than a minority of rich people". It calls for pensions to be kept separate from any mechanism for meeting care costs. Although the committee acknowledges a widespread perception that arrangements for long-term care funding are unfair — not least because people do not see their home as an asset in the same sense as savings — it says that reports of a crisis in paying for such care are unsound or "downright alarmist". Britain does not face as



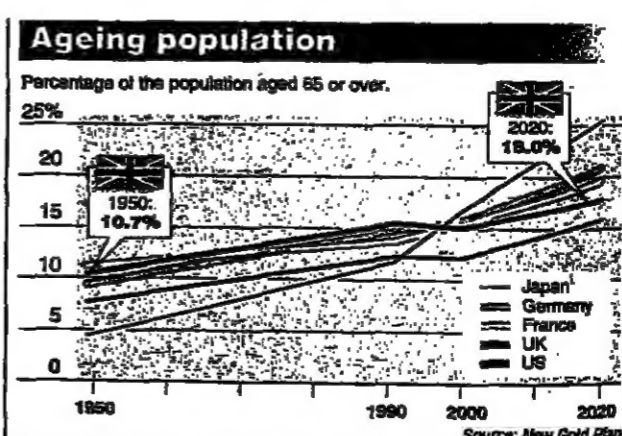
Looking for security in old age... but the select committee was unimpressed by government solutions PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

steps an increase in numbers of elderly people as do many other countries. Moreover, the projected increase over the next 25 years in numbers of over-85s is smaller than the rise between 1971 and 1994. While there are problems in meeting care costs, the report says, such problems are "more manageable than many recent commentators have suggested" and it may be "both possible and affordable" to continue with the system as it exists. If change is considered, however, one option backed by the committee would be development of flexible equity-release

schemes enabling people to use the value of their homes to pay for care while keeping them until they die. In a statement on the report, Stephen Dorrell, Health Secretary, made no comment on the criticisms of the green paper proposals. However, the minister indicated that the Government would accept a call by the committee for long-term care insurance to be regulated under the Financial Services Act 1986. He said a consultation document on this would appear in the autumn. The committee's report received a mixed reaction.

Tessa Jowell, Labour shadow health minister, welcomed his call for a rethink of government proposals, saying: "The Tories have cynically whipped up fears about a 'demographic timebomb' to justify their plans to pass the costs of long-term care from the state to the individual." Mervyn Kohler, Help the Aged's head of public affairs, said: "We need a clear agenda so that people can plan for the future. This report is not setting that agenda."

Long-term Care: Future Provision and Funding: HMSO; £11.50



Review

Whodunnit? Who cares!

Stuart Jeffries

MURDER ONE BBC2
IT WASN'T either of the bald guys. It wasn't Neil Avedon, though he was caught on video tying Jessica up in some sicko bondage blah. It wasn't Hoffman's schizo missus. It wasn't Jessica's sister, whose breasts were lovingly shot in profile for so much of the last episode (though she was clearly being set up for something). No, it was Roberto Portalegre. He did it. As if we cared. Murder One kept its disappointing culprit under wraps until Chapter 21 of this 23-part series. Avedon was sentenced two episodes before closing time — so he was clearly innocent and likely to be free to be rich and obnoxious once again before the final credits rolled. And when it was revealed shortly after Avedon's sentence that a convicted rapist-coke dealer—all-round bad guy had received a parking ticket outside Jessica's apartment on the night of the murder, it was clear that Stephen Bochco and his chums were going to deal one from the bottom of the deck. It's the cheapest thing a thriller can do: introduce a character with fresh legs in the final furlong, and watch the favourites fade away. But, then, who did it was not that important. This simulacrum of justice had become much less diverting than the soap opera towards the end. More interesting than the legal procedural was the spectacle of Richard Cross, dying of Aids but pumped up with

drugs to give crucial testimony before he croaked. More interesting, too, was the late disclosure of the murderer — Cross, when he found he was HIV-positive, cultivated a safe-sex passion for watching Jessica having sex with other men and so installed a VCR in her bedroom. It was a wonder that the series wasn't written for the screen by Michael Crichton, such as Murder One's passé marriage of video technology and voyeurism. Hoffman's wife, too, could have come from a Crichton novel, given that she had one less dimension than any plausible woman. In early instalments, her role was to present Ted with a well-earned glass of red when he returned from work. Then she mutated into Ms Feisty, with a ball-buster of a divorce lawyer who was going to make Hoffman cry for mercy before she got through with his stock portfolio. By the end, with Hoffman exonerated and justice served California-style, his wife had reverted to type. She was there for him. In a caring, non-didactic, asexual, I'll-make-dinner-while-you-have-a-well-earned-Martini kind of way. If anyone uses the words "character development" about Mrs Hoffman, feel free to laugh long and hard into their faces. It isn't over, though. Portalegre may be awaiting the chair in San Quentin. But his offer to Hoffman is still on the table: \$20 million to represent him at appeal. "And what makes you think I'll take it?" Hoffman snarled. Why, the sequel, you putz! After all, who could resist Murder Two: The Nightmare Continues?

Thumb holds clue to 'missing Picasso' sketch

Dan Glaister Arts Correspondent

THE old adage about not throwing away that old rag might be in the attic until it's been checked by Hugh Scully was given a new lease of life yesterday when it emerged that a drawing found in a flat in Ealing might be a missing work by Picasso. Authentication of the work may rest on identifying a thumbprint at the bottom of the picture. A fingerprint expert with Cambridgeshire police has offered to help solve the mystery. The picture turned up when a Brighton antique dealer bought the contents of a flat in Ealing, west London, belonging to a Polish woman who claimed to be the illegitimate daughter of Picasso. The dealer called in art historian Mark Harris to inspect the ink and gouache. "When I saw it I got the very strong impression that it could be a Picasso," said Mr Harris. "It's strikingly similar to the Three Dancers in the Tate." The sketch, according to Mr Harris, shows Picasso



Detail from the sketch said to bear similarities to Guernica

of France, Picasso filled in an application for a work permit which included both thumbprints. The original is held in an archive in Paris. "We're very keen to get it," said Mr Harris, "but we've only got a photocopy. It's just a case of fighting on." Frustrated, Mr Harris issued an appeal on the Internet entitled Picasso's Unknown Masterpiece. Martin Leadbetter, a fingerprint expert who helped to authenticate a Turner painting last year and now works for Cambridgeshire police, heard about the Internet appeal and offered to assist Mr Harris. Mr Leadbetter said of the picture: "It's pretty awful. I wouldn't even give £25 for it. Unless it's authenticated."

flanked by his wife and his mistress. His mistress is pregnant and his then wife, Olga, is depicted as a bullfighter. The sketch also bears similarities to Picasso's best-known picture, *Guernica*, painted in 1937. "It contains the same iconography, the same imagery, all the same themes," said Mr Harris. Close inspection revealed the artist's signature and the date May 12, 1934. "I've had threatening letters from Claude Picasso, the painter's son, who controls the Picasso market," said Mr Harris. "None of the dealers wants to go against him." There is one document that could decide the authenticity of the picture. During the Nazi occupation

During the Nazi occupation

Main points

- Britain does not face elderly care crisis
- Long-term care funding is widely perceived as unfair
- Government plans for partnership insurance not the answer
- Private insurance market must be regulated
- NHS payment of nursing element of nursing home fees should be considered
- Ministers wrong to reject national eligibility criteria for NHS services

'For the foreseeable future, many people will be too poor to afford partnership schemes, or too lacking in assets to need them. We would be worried by any suggestion that they are the answer to the problems of long-term care funding'

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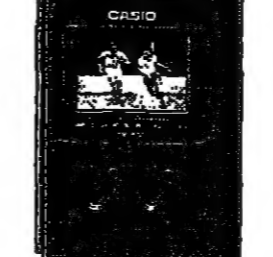
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Murder
French...
release...

The victim's...

What to say...

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

Bank call for rate rise dents Tories

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

TORY hopes of stoking up the economy before the next general election suffered a setback yesterday when the Bank of England called for a rise in interest rates to keep the lid on inflation.

In its sharpest warning to date, the Bank said a failure by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to act quickly could mean more drastic rate increases later.

Chief economist Mervyn King, unveiling the Bank's latest quarterly Inflation Report, called for a pre-emptive strike against the risk of higher inflation.

The Bank's gloomy message came the day after news that a reviving economy — combined with the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years — had helped to trim Labour's opinion poll lead over the Conservatives to 13 points, against 21 points in the spring.

cut to 5.75 per cent. It warned that the Government was likely to miss its 2.5 per cent target for underlying inflation two years' hence unless interest rates rise now.

Treasury ministers put on a brave face, stressing commitment to low inflation. Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The Chancellor has always made it very clear that having got down to low levels of inflation, he is not going to give up that prize easily."

"He has made it very clear that maintaining low inflation is the guiding light of his interest rate policy. And he has never been fearful of changing interest rates if he has to... I don't think there is any disagreement between the Governor and the Chancellor."

But most City analysts said the Bank had successfully reduced Mr Clarke's room for manoeuvre and Opposition parties seized on the report to attack Mr Clarke's handling of the economy.

Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman Malcolm Bruce said: "Today's report confirms what the Chancellor is now putting the political interests of the Conservative Party before the long term economic interests of the country."

Shadow chancellor Gordon Brown said: "If interest rates are to be kept down the Government must tackle the imbalance between consumption and investment in the economy and the investment gap with our competitors — both of which have derailed previous recoveries and threaten to derail this one."

Wise words

May 14: Bank of England: "March's base rate cut can be justified as an 'insurance policy' against a downturn in the economy. There is a case for continuing to pay the premium for a short period. But it is not easy to see a case for increasing the premium."

June 6: base rates cut to 5.75%.

February 14: Bank admits it gave the wrong advice over January's cut, but denied that this gave Chancellor Kenneth Clarke the go ahead for another reduction.

March 8: base rates cut to 6%.

January 17: Bank governor Eddie George says he would prefer not to cut interest rates. He is "inclined to wait".

January 18: base rates cut to 6.25%.

December 13: Eddie George warns Mr Clarke that a cut "would not be without its dangers".

December 13: base rates cut from 6.75% to 6.5%.



The Pleine-Fougères youth hostel where Caroline Dickinson was killed, with the coach which brought the party from Launceston College still parked outside. PHOTOGRAPH: P FRANK

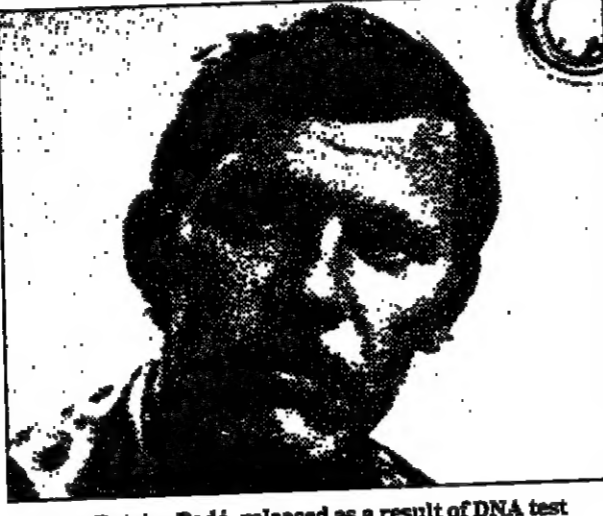
Murder hunt in disarray

French police release suspect

Alex Duval Smith
in Pleine-Fougères

THE inquiry into the rape and murder of 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson at a youth hostel in Brittany appeared to have descended into chaos and rumour after French police last night released their prime suspect less than three weeks after his arrest.

As a vagrant, Patrice Padé, walked free from a jail in southern Brittany yesterday it emerged that police investigations into the death of Caroline Dickinson, who was in a party of 39 pupils and five adults from Launceston College, was particularly mysterious because she was apparently raped and suffocated while four of her friends slept in the same room.



Suspect Patrice Padé, released as a result of DNA test

Investigation, it emerged that in the last two years Pleine-Fougères and the surrounding area had been the scene of another sex murder. Local gendarmes, sidelined in the inquiry, confirmed that two days before Caroline's murder a 28-year-old German woman was indecently assaulted in a nearby village. On the eve of the British girl's death, a woman in another village, Coesmon, fought off an attacker whom she described as blond and wearing a black jacket.

holiday and his deputy, Grégoire Cholot, was "out all day" according to the only member of staff, a kitchen supervisor. The size of the rooms on either side of that in which Caroline's body was found make it difficult to imagine how the teenager could have been raped and murdered while her friends slept. Caroline had slept on a mattress which could have covered the entire floor space between two metal-framed bunk beds. Police would not comment on the possibility that she may have been attacked during a visit to the lavatory just down the hallway from her room, or that she went outside to see the man or men who later killed her.

On Tuesday police had said the accompanying two male teachers from Launceston College, the coach driver and five boys in the group had been eliminated from the inquiry after DNA tests. But they refused to confirm this yesterday. Some of the village's 1,500 inhabitants argued that they had never been convinced of Mr Padé's guilt. "It was all too easy," said an elderly farmer. A waitress at the Olympique café said: "I had stopped worrying. I had told myself it was him [Mr Padé]. Now it's back to staying indoors."

The victims: Britons murdered in France

- 1977 The Brodericks, shot near St Tropez. Unsolved
- 1978 Robert Hicks, stabbed in Cateoup les Vignes. Unsolved
- 1978 Carol Reeves, battered in St Tropez. Unsolved
- 1978 The Mosses, shot in Cannes. Unsolved
- 1978 John Calmann, stabbed while hiking in Normandy. Unsolved
- 1980 Michael Dins, strangled on Marseilles train. Unsolved
- 1983 John Graham, suspicious drowning in Seine. Unsolved
- 1983 Niall Campbell, suspicious drowning off Brest. Unsolved
- 1984 Samantha Ward, killed picking flowers in Angers. Unsolved
- 1986 Kenneth Marston, shot by terrorists in Lyon. Unsolved
- 1986 Paul Bellion and Lorraine Glasby, bound and shot in Brittany. Unsolved
- 1989 Fiona Jones, stabbed in Compiègne. Unsolved
- 1989 Frederic Blancke sentenced to 15 years
- 1990 Alison Dutton, stabbed 17 times in Cherbourg. Unsolved
- 1990 Joanna Parrish, sexually assaulted, strangled and dumped in Yonne river. Unsolved
- 1991 Leslie and Bernadette Chorlton, strangled in forest. Unsolved
- 1992 Malcolm Olson, strangled in Paris hotel. Unsolved
- 1993 Anthony Howe, found dead on Paris building site. Unsolved
- 1993 James Tolley, drugged and dumped in river. Two women charged.
- 1994 Patricia Green, shot in home near Cannes. Unsolved

'Who's to say we're not all Martians, that life started there'

continued from page 1
universe was a curiously low-key event, as scientists gave detailed accounts of molecular chemistry and laser-induced ion maps. "We conclude that taken together, this is evidence for early life on Mars," said David McKay, of the Johnson Space Centre. "We have no confirming evidence. We don't know if they have cell walls or not. We have lines of evidence — none of them conclusive."

Scientists came to Washington from US universities and government and private laboratories for the announcement. At the heart of it all squatted a potato-sized chunk of rock, sliced cleanly on one side where the scientists had taken their samples. At least 3.5 billion years old, it had been hewn from the surface of Mars by a meteorite strike, then tumbled through space for 15 million years before finally landing in Antarctica about 16,000 years ago.

The rock was found just in time for the latest in mass spectrometers and electron microscopes to discern fossils of bacteria. For the scientists, it was a moment of wonder. "Who is to say that we are not all Martians, that Mars was where life first started?" said Professor Richard Zare of Stanford University, who devised the new instruments.

Dr McKay said "Wherever we look on Earth where we find chemicals and we find water, we find life. Why wouldn't it have evolved also in other places in the solar system? We are just beginning to detect planets around other stars, so why wouldn't life have evolved there too?"

The historic press conference took place in the lecture room of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Already this year, the Nasa chamber had seen evidence that man can now peer to the farthest reaches of the universe, and that planets had been seen circling other stars.

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"He raised some very difficult issues which face specialists in foetal medicine. Doctors like myself and Phil are daily tortured by them. Where is technology leading us? What is the responsibility of doctors? What is the responsibility of society?"
Professor Kyprianos Nicolaidis on his friend Phillip Bennett

page 4

'Follow a different line and the journalist or editor will know all about it the next day'. David Hencke on the tactics of party strategists

How high priests of spin keep order

ONCE upon a time journalists talked directly to politicians. Then came Joe Haines, Daily Mirror journalist turned press officer to Harold Wilson, and Bernard Ingham, Guardian journalist turned press officer to Margaret Thatcher.

Both were aggressively loyal and were famous for putting down anyone who crossed them. But they were essentially public relations men, spin doctors committed to selling their leaders' personalities rather than changing party policies.

The Tories stick to the old rules of the unofficial masonic briefing behind closed doors while Labour has opened a new lodge. For Haines then, road Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell now, the Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid of modern Labour politics.

Mr Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, political adviser and election campaign manager to Tony Blair, is credited with severing Labour's links with the voter-repellant policies of the past. Mr Campbell, once of Robert Maxwell's Daily Mirror, is the policies ramraider aiming for the press secretary's suite at 10 Downing Street. Mr Mandelson serves it up and Mr Campbell dishes it out.

No longer do journalists have to ring round members of the shadow cabinet to find Labour stories or search for the Tory party if they want a good government line. It is brought to them on a plate. Just stay in a cubby hole in the parliamentary press gallery and the friendly — or not so friendly — spin doctor will be round as regular as a tea trolley, press release in hand, and a plausible line at the ready. Stick to that line and there will be no problem. Follow something different and the journalist, editor, or television executive will know all about it the next day.

Access to prominent politicians will become that much more difficult. The person will not be — favourite lobby words — "sound" or "helpful". No exclusive interviews for them, no leaked government documents from a broadcast journalist, no space on that airplane with the party leader.

It is Labour, deprived of office for 17 years, which is taking the most aggressive line with lobby journalists, combined with the creation of an instant rebuttal unit, aimed at Tory "lies" and inside stories about Labour.

The Conservative Party, always more discreet than Labour, has long had what was known as the "White Commonwealth" of lobby journalists — the Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Telegraph, the Times and the Sun — to place stories. In the 1987 election campaign Norman Tebbit spent hours trying to interest the White Common-

wealth in anti-Labour tales, at Conservative Central Office sessions that lasted long into the night.

Charles Lewington, the smooth ex-Sunday Express lobby journalist who heads Conservative Central Office election campaign, and Sheila Gunn, his deputy, a former Times lobby journalist and diarist, follow the same tradition. A quiet word in the ear of a friendly journalist, a Central Office fax sent direct to George Jones, political editor of the Daily Telegraph, that is how they influence the debate.

Peter Mandelson, first when he worked for Neil Kinnock and now as part of a deadly duo with Alastair Campbell, has rewritten Labour's rules of engagement.

They extract a high entry fee from traditionally hostile papers desperate to get an inside track to Mr Blair. That and the rise of soundbite TV journalism, has allowed Mr Mandelson's own agenda of "modernising Labour" to set the tone. Sceptics, whether among journalists or the shadow cabinet, are getting short shrift.

Contrary to the impression given by the high priests of spin, some members of the shadow cabinet resent Mr Mandelson's jealous gate-keeping duties in the leader's office. Some find access difficult, others admit they learn of Labour U-turns by reading the newspapers.

Rightly, they believe the lobby is sometimes briefed by Mr Mandelson and Mr Campbell on policy spins before the shadow cabinet or the Parliamentary Labour Party.

One aide to a shadow minister even asked for a list of "independent lobby journalists" to be compiled so he could get across a "message untainted by Mandelson spin".

Nick Jones, a BBC TV journalist and author of a recent book on spin doctors, says Mr Mandelson is the first spin doctor with a policy agenda which he is pushing through successive Labour leaders.

He also believes Mr Mandelson goes further than any other party adviser in researching his lobby prey. "He actually researches his journalists so he can place the right story with them," says Mr Jones. "He knows their strengths and weaknesses, he knows the hierarchy where they work and he is not averse to leaking information against them if they do not do what he wants."

Both Mr Mandelson and Mr Campbell complain relentlessly to any newspaper or TV editor if they do not like what they read or see.

Another Campbell and Mandelson tactic, according to a BBC reporter, is to wait until a great gaffe is made. Then they visit the hapless editor to complain, and attempt to exact not only an apology but other demands — like removing troublesome reporters from covering future events.



The lobby in Parliament where politicians, spin doctors and journalists meet for 'off the record' comments and briefings

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Doctoring the news: Six expert players of the game



ALASTAIR CAMPBELL: Tony Blair's press secretary.

Age: 38
Background: State school and Cambridge. Wrote soft porn for Forum magazine under pen name Fwiera Gigolo. Reformed alcoholic. Political editor, Daily Mirror and Today (defunct). Tempestuous relationship with Robert Maxwell. Plays bagpipes.
Top Spin: Budgeoned the BBC to lead their TV news with Tony Blair's speech on the day OJ Simpson acquitted.
Standard catchphrases: "What's that load of crap you wrote in today's paper?"



PETER MANDELSON: Head of general election campaign.

Age: 42
Background: Grammar school and Oxford. Labour grandee background, grandson of Herbert Morrison. Former TUC man and ex-London Weekend TV producer. Dubbed Machiavelli, Rasputin, Prince of Darkness, and worse. Author of this volume, The Blair Revolution: Can Labour deliver?
Top Spin: Letting it slip that he was so close to Blair that he was given a secret codename "Bobby" by the party leader so he could deliver confidential telephone advice without other colleagues knowing.
Standard catchphrases: "I almost never brief journalists."



CHARLES WHELAN: Press adviser to Gordon Brown.

Age: 41
Background: Private fee-paying school. Communist until 1980, press officer for the old Amalgamated Engineering Union. A bit scruffy, meet at home in a smoke-filled drinking den. Shed old communist image and gold earring when he joined Gordon Brown's team.
Top Spin: Getting Ken Clarke to denounce a recent embarrassing leaked document as a product of "hids from the Treasury." Backfired a bit when it was found to be written by Labour activists.
Standard catchphrases: "I don't know anything about it and I am not responsible."



CHARLES LEWINGTON: Director of Information, Conservative Central Office.

Age: 36
Background: Public school and Bath university. Ex-Western Daily Press, Daily Express and Political Editor, Sunday Express. Dapper, expensive tastes in shoes, wine and food. Tory women are said to swoon when they see him. Nickname is "Lord Charles".
Top Spin: Distancing himself from the disastrous "Two Ronnies" (Headline and Mawhinney) launch of the spoof Labour manifesto, The Road to Ruin.
Standard catchphrases: "Could you come over here and have a quiet word."



SHEILA GUNN: Deputy head of communications, Conservative Central Office.

Age: 47
Background: Public school. Rose from a newsdesk secretary on the Times to a lobby journalist and diary editor. Expensively dressed and coiffured, leapt to notoriety after becoming mistress number three in the life of Steven Norris, the former transport minister. Charming, disarmingly tough lady.
Top Spin: Getting confidential details of immigrant cases into the public domain to boost the Government's tough asylum law and sending faxes of pulled Cabinet ministers' speeches to journalists.
Standard catchphrases: "Is there anything I can do to help you?"



JANE BONHAM CARTER: Head of communications, the Liberal Democrat Party.

Age: 37
Background: Public school and University College, London. Long track record in political programmes from Newsnight and Panorama to editor of Channel 4's A Week in Politics. Great grandfather was Herbert Asquith, the Liberal prime minister.
Top Spin: None yet, only promises of some to come.
Standard catchphrases: "I'm not Alastair Campbell."

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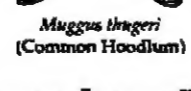
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A dictionary definition

Spin Doctor: A campaign official or public relations expert attached to a party or candidate whose task is to channel facts to the media which put the best possible construction on events in an effort to build momentum — from Brewer's Politics, a phrase and fable dictionary by Nicholas Comfort with a foreword by John Major

Edinburgh Calling

The A5 Guide to the Edinburgh Festival. 140 pages packed with information about the festival — what to watch, where to go, and who to see — plus comprehensive listings of all the events.

Gordon's

Free with the Guardian at the festival, or to order a copy, send a 50p stamp and A4-sized SAE to: Edinburgh Guide, Mancap Workshop, 115 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0TJ.

The Guardian



Ultra-orthodox rabbis hold a handcuff protest in Jerusalem yesterday over the arrest of colleagues who tried to stop motorists driving on the Sabbath. PHOTOGRAPH: MANOOCHER DEGHATI

US agrees 'oil for food' plan to aid Iraq

Mark Tran in New York

THE United States yesterday finally accepted a United Nations plan allowing Iraq to sell oil to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies to ease the burden of sanctions.

The UN oil plan will mark Iraq's return to the oil market for the first time in six years. Iraq oil is expected to flow again in September. The UN may take four or five weeks physically to put in place a comprehensive monitoring regime.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed in May and subsequently modified at US and British insistence, Iraq agreed to a highly intrusive UN presence. Monitors will be allowed to roam anywhere in the country, checking markets and clinics, to make sure that emergency supplies are reaching the neediest people.

As part of the plan, \$150 million (\$96 million) of each \$1 billion in oil sales will be spent on aid to the Kurds in northern Iraq, now effectively an autonomous region under Western protection. Under UN resolution 986, adopted last year, Iraq will be allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months, on a renewable basis.

Baghdad has been dragging its feet with UN arms inspection teams after agreeing to the oil-for-food plan, and there have been several attempts to bar UN inspectors from Iraqi facilities. Britain and the US have warned Iraq that it faces a council resolution deploring its intransigent behaviour should it continue to hamper UN inspectors.

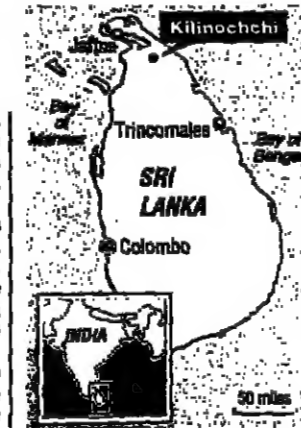
Explaining the delay in US approval, she said it had wanted to ensure that all the procedures were appropriate, and we will make sure they are carried out very rigorously, because the point here is to get the assistance to the right people and not in any way to abrogate the sanctions regime.

Tamils despair as 'peace plan' falls victim to new war against rebels

Sri Lanka's president is turning to the gun, writes Suzanne Goldenberg in Colombo

SRI LANKAN Tamils, who once saw President Chandrika Kumaratunga almost as a saviour, fear that she is falling back on a military solution to end the 13-year civil war.

Link between the northern Jaffna peninsula, seized from the Tigers last December, and the government-controlled mainland. The confrontation follows the Tigers' attack on the Sri Lankan army last month, when the rebels overtook a military camp at Mullaithivu and killed more than 1,100 troops.



Tigers kill soldiers, said Palkisothay Saravanamuttu, a consultant at Colombo university's centre for policy research and analysis. "The expectations were so great that I think the disappointment is commensurate."

The package alone is not going to solve anything," said D. Siddharthan, leader of the Eelam People's Democratic Party, Eelam is Tamil for homeland. Increasingly desperate political parties are beginning to distance themselves from the government's reform package and to look at other ways of trying to end the war.

Vigilantes fuel Cape drugs war

David Beresford in Johannesburg

A LARGE crowd of vigilantes brandishing revolvers, pump-action shotguns and chanting "Allah Akbar" put on another show of force outside Cape Town yesterday, as security chiefs tried to defuse the drugs war which erupted on Sunday in South Africa's parliamentary capital.

Local politicians and police exchanged insults as a row flared over who was to blame for the violence, in which a gang leader was shot and burned to death and 18 people injured in a shoot-out between vigilantes and alleged drug dealers.

A LUXURY WEEK ON THE NILE

A cruise along the Nile on a deluxe vessel, not too large, and with like-minded travellers, has got to be one of the better ways of escaping the uncertain British weather. This cruising arrangement represents extraordinary value since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

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1997 - Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, 34, 41, 48, 55
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 38, 45
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 38, 45
Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 38, 45

News in brief

Abortion row grows as pro-lifers win

ANTI-ABORTION candidates have won all three Republican primary races for the United States Senate in Kansas, Georgia and Michigan, strengthening the grip of the religious right on the party as liberals plot a fightback at next week's convention.

Nuclear ship defies protests

A BRITISH freighter carrying more than 20 tons of nuclear waste has entered the Caribbean Sea despite regional opposition. The 14-member Caribbean Community, a confederation of the region's English-speaking countries, said it would try to stop the ship, which Greenpeace has called a "disaster waiting to happen".

New HIV test gets go-ahead

AMERICANS will soon be able to find out if they have the virus that causes Aids, by taking a simple urine test. The new test, which manufacturers hope to have available within a few weeks, works by detecting antibodies to the HIV virus in urine. Experts say it will appeal to those wary of needles and, unlike the blood test, poses no risk of infection.

Salinas turns up in Ireland

THE elusive former Mexican president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, has surfaced in Dublin. Mr Salinas, who left his country in financial chaos after relinquishing power in November 1994, has yet to inform the Irish authorities of his presence.

Nerve gas 'went near allies'

GULF war bombing of Iraqi chemical weapons plants sent clouds of low-level nerve gas towards allied positions in Saudi Arabia, United States investigators have admitted. The CIA says Desert Storm air attacks on Muhammadiyah, west of Baghdad, in January 1991 blew up around three tons of the nerve agent sarin, which has been pumped into bombs for the Iraqi air force.

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"Digital data has a fluid form to it. Digital design is like painting where the paint never dries."

Neville Brody

OnLine, G2 page 10

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Mars, our cosmic cousin

Suddenly, we are not what we thought we were

IF NASA scientists have found traces of life on Mars, albeit billions of years old, it will rank as one of the outstanding discoveries of all time, a cosmic milestone in mankind's perception of the universe and ultimately of himself.

enthusiastic in its interpretation of the facts. We must remind ourselves also that it is August, when all sorts of quasi-stories become actual stories to fill the news vacuum as most of the world - the Earth, that is - goes on holiday.

Russia's staggering start

But the last thing needed is a another new ideology

BORIS YELTSIN is in trouble of all kinds: tomorrow's presidential inauguration may provide a clue to the most personal one - his shaky state of health.

of post-election Russia is the calmness with which a grim situation is accepted on all sides. Foreign economic advisers stick to their familiar view that things must get worse before they get better.

Coming to the relief of Derry

The Government had a duty to prevent Saturday's march

THE Government has acted rightly and bravely by effectively banning Saturday's Apprentice Boys' march in Derry. The march organisers and the residents who had opposed their plans have had many chances to reach a compromise.

and their followers. No one on the nationalist side should engage in triumphalism or any other form of provocation. The security forces should enforce the ban with absolute scrupulousness.



Letters to the Editor

When the law says life

THIS injunction achieved by pro-life campaigners in the case of the abortifacient RU-486 raises great ethical issues for all of us.

AS someone who is a twin, a disabled and who works as a child-protection trainer and consultant for disabled children, I find the idea of aborting one twin morally repugnant.

It could be you - but only if you live in London

LORD Gowrie's attempt to justify the wholly disproportionate amount of Lottery money awarded to London venues and elitist arts forms (Let the bids roll in, August 6) could be dismissed as out of touch were it not for the fact that as chair of the Lottery Arts Board, he is the most significant voice in the distribution of the funds.

rowed and needs to be repaid by future Birmingham council-taxpayers, whereas Lottery funds are a grant and do not give rise to financial liabilities.

Wrong number

WHERE OFel got it wrong (New upheaval for phones, August 6) was in not using Phone Day 1995, when virtually every number in Britain had to change in any case, to design a system that would genuinely take care of foreseeable requirements.

AS someone who did the first-ever research study into the effect on twins of the loss of their twin, I was horrified to hear of the so-called solution for this single mother. Surely the twins could be fostered, kept together and brought up in the knowledge that their mother wanted them, but was unable to care for them? Alternatively, one could be adopted and this too be made known to them both so that they could meet up later.

WHILE all the angles of exploitation, whether by Spac, doctors or the press, in the tragic twins/abortion story seem equally unsatisfactory, there may be one positive glimmer: the emergence of the new sport, tripping the tabloid press. Britain should excel if only through sheer wealth of opportunity.

Boyson R, must try harder

SIR Rhodes Boyson attacks the modular A-level system by saying that the results are 'not worth the paper they are written on' (Exam chiefs attack limit on number of A-level re-sits, August 6). But education is not about a test of memory.

Suppose a lifetime spent refining Tory arguments in favour of inequality makes Lord Gowrie believe that special pleading for London's massive share of Lottery funding is persuasive. In the divided and run-down country Gowrie and his chums have helped to create, there are still many people who cannot afford to travel to London to enjoy the cultural wealth, or even live in the civilised surroundings. Is he aware of this? Michael Leslie, 5 Leyburn Grove, Bingley, West Yorks BD16 4LU.

Captain Bligh faces his mutiny

JOHN Smith, the BBC's Deputy Finance Director (Letters, August 6), says he has to ensure that the licence fee payer does not unfairly subsidise other services, by which I presume he means the World Service.



THE current telephone numbering system allows for 10 billion different lines in the UK, ignoring the superfluous leading zero. This allows for something like 150 lines per man, woman and child, which ought to cope.

LAST year we were told that Bristol's four-digit code 0272 was hopelessly outdated, and was to be replaced by the five-digit code 01179. Today we are told that the five-digit code 01292 for Belfast is obsolete and is to be replaced by a four-digit code 0282. What is the point of all this nonsensical tinkering? And why can't we have our abbreviated local codes back, so that Bath subscribers can return to dialling just 92 for a call to Bristol? Mike Godwin, 48 Longleaze Avenue, Bath.

A Country Diary

THE BURREN, IRELAND: Our French visitors and Mary Ann decided to scale the heights of Mullaghmore, while I kept to the lowlands to fulfil my wish of walking round the turlough (or disappearing lake) at its foot. We had seen from a distance waterlilies on the turlough - these I wished to see up close.

headed caning thistles, harelms. However, as I got nearer to my target, I realised I could not get close - rushes grew well over my head and the whoo-ily-bearing pool was circled by a deep moat. On I trudged, now through shrubby cinquefoil (potentilla fruticosa), now over rocks where hazel grew and spread horizontally. I stopped to examine a hazelnut - pale green, its tip suffused with deep pink. Then I noticed a very small pool, floating on its surface were four waterlilies and, hovering above them, dragon and damselflies. I also saw two hovering meadowhawk-like (but thinner) opaque blue, seemingly wingless insects. Annoyingly, none of my reference books help me to identify them. I scrambled back in the perfumed air in a cloud of butterflies matching the darting swallows overhead so that I did not know whether I was dreaming I was a butterfly or a butterfly dreaming I was human. SARAH POYNTZ

Lilley's old line

HAVING had a career in the public sector for 10 years, I was, from 1985-1986, manager of one of the department's telephone information lines. I had a team of dedicated staff who answered calls, often discovering that people had struggled for years without claiming benefits to which they were entitled. These staff, unlike those in local offices, were trained in all benefits, so they were able to advise people about claiming on both contributory and non-contributory schemes.

Illey's old line

WOULD it be too much to organise a rally so that we ordinary members of the public can demonstrate our support for the World Service, and our dismay at the recent decisions, which will surely bring about the downfall of this great institution? Helen Johnson, 91 Wickham Road, London SE4 1NH.

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Diary

Matthew Norman

I AM intrigued by a line in Alan Watkins's Independent on Sunday column. "Mr Nicholas Soames used to find his highly attractive..."

AD news for the Government: David Griffiths, a former member of the Twickenham Conservative Association, has decided to stand against sitting Tory MP Toby Jessel...

I AM close to sacking my youth-culture correspondent, John Redwood. The Britpop expert has gone on holiday to a place described by his office as "somewhere foreign" without leaving a contact number...

DESPITE his recurrent inner-ear infection, Heinz chairman Tony O'Reilly won a much-needed pay rise last year. His salary went from £1.3 million in 1994 to a more realistic £4.3 million...

OTHER city news concerns Terry Major-Ball: Allders, owners of his beloved Alliders of Croydon, is spending £23 million buying shares from rival Owen Owen...

FROM the University of Washington comes advice that may prove vital should we suffer a cold winter. Dr Amanda Adler reports that, while leaving school in a temperature of minus 45 degrees...



Red blood under Major's bed

Commentary

Hugo Young

IN the kingdom of red-blooded men, he who hesitates can only be a wimp. That's the trouble with the Government's line on Europe and the single currency...

all that badly, as all of Europe wanted us in the Common Market. The price of swagging will be one-sided. That's what the official line is desperately aware of...

Part of the case for preserving it is substance: the facts of the matter. No one does know for sure when, or even whether, EMU will happen. The date is supposed to be January 1, 1999...

Why not say that Britain, in place of five years of saying maybe, can promise five years of saying no?

imble barricades to anything that looks like impetuosity. They make redundant any need to state here and now when a government of either party would activate its declared willingness...

Abortion can still be the least of the evils



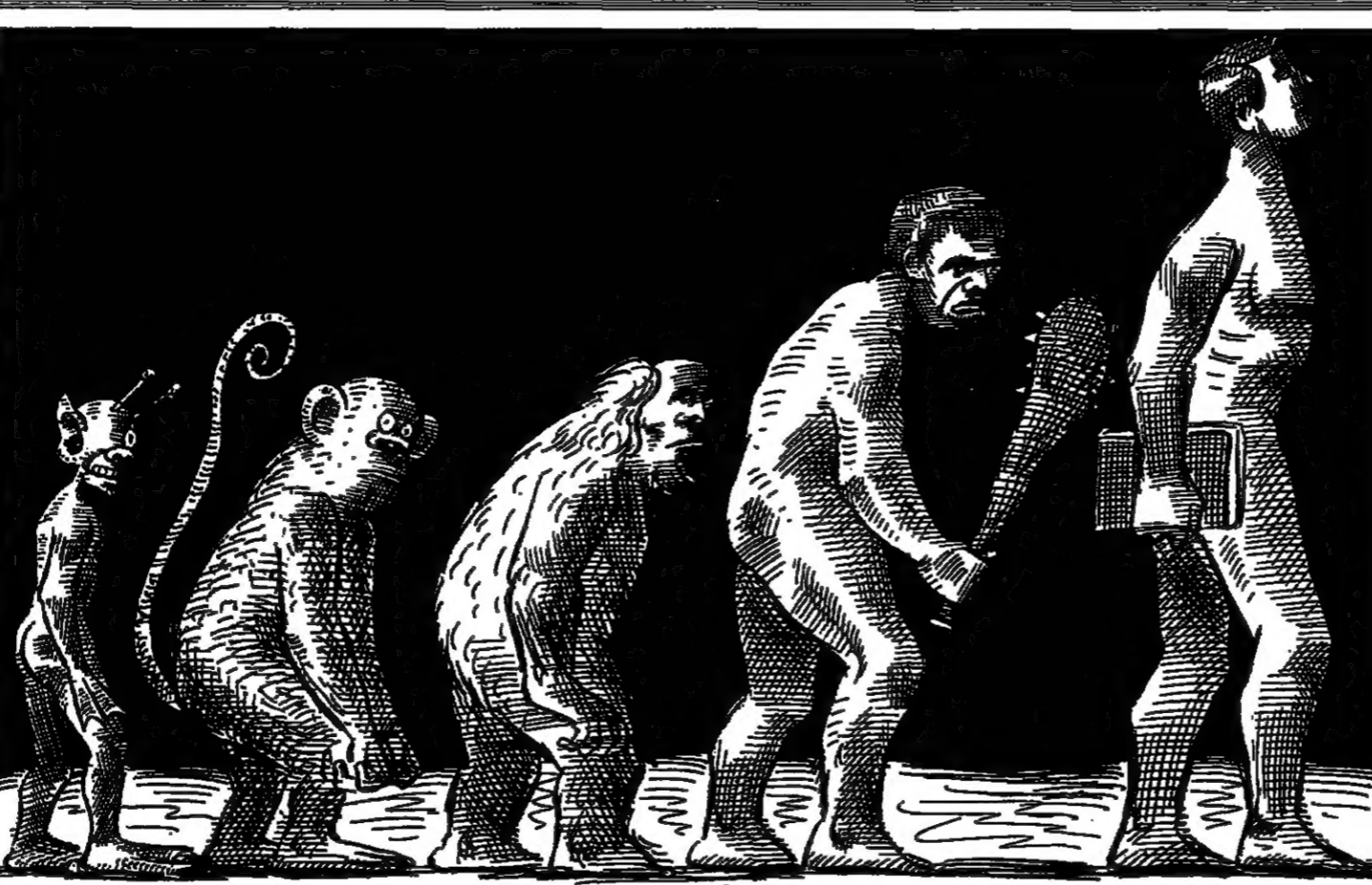
David Steel

I HAVE always respected the minority view in the population which articulates that life begins at the moment of conception. To those who hold that view, then of course even the destruction of a microdot embryo is the same as murder...

The anti-abortion organisations which have been behind legal challenges this week are simply using the worrying case of the aborted twin to have another bash at the 1967 Abortion Act. These are the same people who, a fortnight ago, were campaigning against the destruction of 3,000 microdot embryos...

Coming up to 30 years ago, in 1976, under the law I introduced, she could well have persuaded two doctors that she required an abortion, irrespective of whether she was carrying twins, and again both fetuses would have been lost. In 1996, because of the development of medical science, it has been possible, as I understand it, for a group of consultants in discussion with her to agree to the termination of one half of the pregnancy...

The Rt Hon Sir David Steel MP sponsored the 1967 Abortion Act. On the surface it would appear to be the least objectionable...



Return ticket to Mars

Paul Davies argues that since the planets have been hurling rocks at each other for aeons, life on Mars could have come from Earth. Or vice versa

NASA's sensational announcement of evidence for Martian micro-fossils signals a dramatic U-turn in scientific opinion about the Red Planet. Twenty years ago scientists had all but written off Mars as an abode for life following the Viking Lander missions...

lar conditions are likely to have prevailed beneath the Martian surface too during its 4.5-billion-year history. Photographs show ancient river systems on Mars, including huge canyons and deltas cut by running water. Geologists suspect that massive flash floods were caused by volcanoes melting underground ice deposits...

rite in the news, containing possible micro-fossils, was recovered in 1996 from the Antarctic ice sheet. It may seem baffling that chunks of Mars are found right here on Earth. How do they get here? The answer is simple. Every few million years Mars gets slammed by an asteroid or comet with enough force to blast rocks into space. You can see the craters clearly in satellite photos, peppering the Martian landscape...

Advertisement for Eagle Star home insurance. Text: 'If your home insurance company doesn't deliver these MOVE'. Includes a list of 8 questions to ask a broker and contact information for Eagle Star Direct.

Herman Siles Zuazo

Revolutionary rabbit

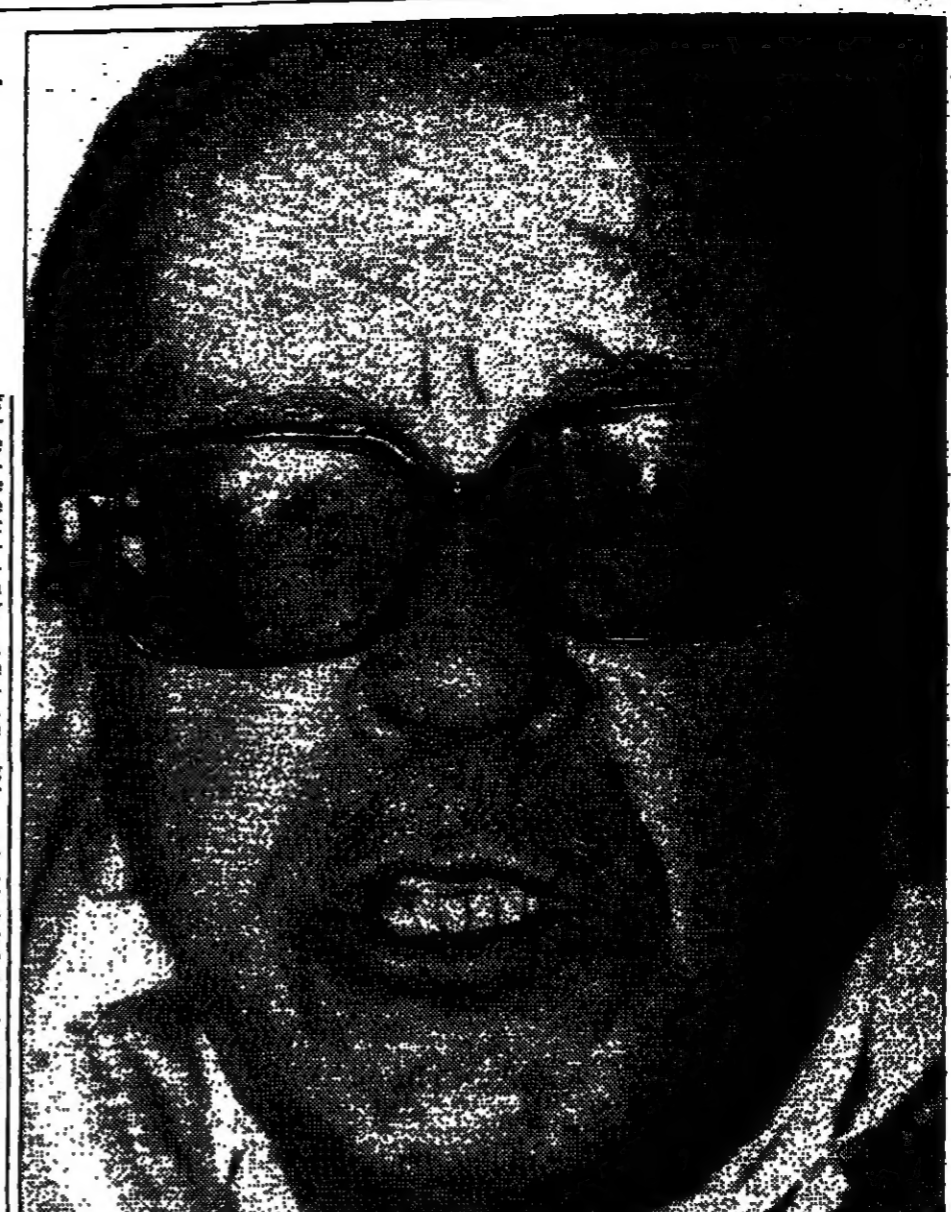
HERMAN SILES ZUAZO, who has died aged 83, was one of the most important figures in Bolivia's turbulent political history...

man would have kept power for himself. Instead, he dutifully surrendered it to his party chief, Victor Paz Estenssoro...

During the 1952 uprising, he was out in the front, hurling sticks of dynamite

conspired with the military to overthrow Paz in November. But this unlikely alliance was short-lived and Siles was soon forced into exile.

20,000 per cent a year, one of the highest levels ever recorded. But, mindful of the mistakes of his first administration, Siles tried to renege the 1952 revolution...



Siles Zuazo... an amateur in the double-crossing world of Bolivian politics

Kevin Moorhouse

Flight of the enchanted

KEVIN MOORHOUSE, who has died in an air crash aged 50, flew the only airworthy de Havilland Mosquito in the world...

development programmes, he flew generations of aircraft almost back to the Mosquito era; maritime reconnaissance Shackletons born in the 1940s...

Howard Vernon

To prove a villain

HOWARD VERNON, who has died aged 82, had a gift for chilling an audience's blood. It was an actor whose shaming figure...

the same vein. One which stood out was Christian Jacq's adaptation of Guy de Maupassant's short story Boule de Suif (1945)...

James Kirkup

Letter

Richard Wolfe writes: In 1964, eight recent graduates from the University of Bristol spent their last summer of freedom in a hired minibus touring Eastern Europe...

Birthdays

Isabel Allende, novelist, 53; Prof Jack Baldwin, chemist, 77; Keith Barron, actor, 61; Ronald Biggs, one of the great train robbers, 67; Dennis Canavan, Labour MP, 64; Keith Carradine, actor, singer and songwriter, 46; Benny Carter, jazz musician and composer, 85; Lord Chapple, former trade union leader, 75; Dr Michael Clark, Conservative MP, 61; Viscount Combermere, biblical lecturer, 67; Sarah Dunant, thriller writer, journalist and broadcaster, 46; David 'The Edge' Evans, rock guitarist, 38; Derek Fatchett, Labour MP, 51; Angus Fraser, cricketer, 81; Lord (Barney) Hayhoe, former Conservative MP, 71; Margaret Hodge, Labour MP, 53; Dustin Hoffman, actor and perfectionist, 59; Dino De Laurentiis, film producer, 77; Nigel Mansell, champion racing driver and autobiographer, 45; Elizabeth Monkhouse, adult educationalist, 64; Sir Patrick Neill QC, lawyer and former Warden of All Souls, Oxford, 70; Prof Roger Penrose, mathematician, 65; Jason Popley, cricketer, 27; James Sherwood, the president of Sea Containers plc, 63; Barbara Sonnentag, fashion designer, 34; Connie Stevens, actress and singer, 58; Esther Williams, champion swimmer and movie actress, 73; Jimmy Witherspoon, traditional blues singer, 75; Sir Alan Muir Wood, civil engineer, 75.

Death notices

TYRRELL, Marjory dedicated teacher, socialist, Co-ordinator Oxfam worker at Bedford, Bedford, Bedford and Bedford 1915-1996, died suddenly August 3rd, 2001...

Len Coldwell

Good man at the county wicket

LEN COLDWELL, who has died suddenly aged 83, had his finest hour at Lord's in 1962 when he bowled England to a big victory over Pakistan in his Test debut in front of a Saturday crowd of 20,000 people.

with Jack Flavell. Together they took Worcestershire to the brink of the County Championship in 1962, and then to the club's first-ever titles in 1964 and 1965. It was a classic pairing: Flavell bowling and Coldwell bowling in the middle order.

Matthew Engel

Jackdaw

upon and violates our client's trademark and various other exclusive proprietary intellectual property rights. This is a serious violation and misappropriation of our client's rights and, accordingly, we hereby demand that you immediately cease and desist from any such use of the name "George Jr."

The reply

I WAS SURPRISED to get your letter yesterday, in which you expressed concern about potential trademark infringement and "revenues" from my home page, georgejr.com...

Big story

AN 18-year-old student claimed on her car insurance for an accident whilst "visiting friends". She had a hit a high curb, causing the vehicle to roll over. What about her friends? We can't imagine who they were, considering she'd delivered her Escort on to Silverstone racetrack.

Honeymoon?

"SO WHO'S in the parlour—the bride and the groom?" "Well, the groom. The bride is going to come down the stairs, on the arm of her father."

Emily Sheffield

into the buggy. And then they have a sort of reception in the bedroom. If it's a de-luxe, then they have a cake that's precisely the sort of cake that Lucy Maud had. Also, if it's a de-luxe, Anne comes to the reception. Someone playing Anne, of course.

The letter

FROM GRUBMAN INDRUSKY SCHINDLER & GOLDSTEIN, P.C. July 19, 1996 Dear Mr. Myers: We represent Random Ventures, Inc., the exclusive worldwide proprietor of the trademark "George," which trademark it has previously licensed for use in connection with "George" magazine and various online and Internet versions of the same.

Hands off!

Maxim... preposterous

Hands off!

Maxim... preposterous

Hands off!

Maxim... preposterous

Hands off!

Maxim... preposterous

Hands off!

Maxim... preposterous

Hands off!

Maxim... preposterous

Miners may try to Hong Kong bonan



US suits

Shareholder might return chief to power

Shareholder might return chief to power

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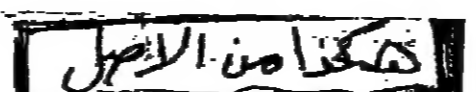
Shareholder might return chief to power

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Shareholder might return chief to power



Miners may try to save last big pit in North Wales, page 12

Hong Kong bonanza for Standard Chartered, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian



Precious waste... Miles Brough (above), managing director of Jesse Brough Metals, with a lump of foundry dross. The company has won the Small Business category in an award scheme backed by the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, for its reclamation of aluminium which is normally dumped in landfill sites. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MANSFIELD

US suitor for East Midlands

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

TAKEOVER fever returned to the electricity industry with a vengeance yesterday with news that an American power company has been contemplating a \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) bid for East Midlands Electricity.

vived the last bout of takeover, Dominion Resources of Richmond, Virginia, declined to comment on a published report that it had been blocked by its state regulator from bidding for the Nottingham company.

Similarly, the State Corporation Commission declined to comment on whether the company had sought the "last bid of certainty" needed for a bid to be cleared by regulators in Washington.

Analysts suggested that the refusal could kill Dominion's hopes of mounting the bid, although the company is likely to consult its lawyers about the prospect of overturning the commission's stance.

East Midlands shares rose 14p to 597p. There were also increases at Southern Electricity of 21p to 822p, London Electricity of 18p to 629p, Yorkshire Electricity of 70p to 718.5p and Northern Electric of 14p to 546p.

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Shareholder might returns chief to power

Eurotherm investors flex their muscles and make history, writes Ian King

AN UPRISING by institutional shareholders of Eurotherm, the electronic components group, yesterday succeeded in reinstating the company's former chief executive, Claes Hultman.

Announcing Mr Hultman's return, Sir James admitted that the solution had been "difficult" to achieve, but said Eurotherm was now ideally placed to continue growing profitably.

He added: "Some degree of sanity has returned and hopefully we can now draw a line under this period and return to business as usual."

Meanwhile, Mr Hultman, who is regarded as having transformed Eurotherm, and who last year made a paper profit of over £1.8 million on share options, said he was looking forward to getting back to work.

Mr Hultman walked out last month after falling out with Dr Leonard — one of Eurotherm's co-founders — over company strategy, and in particular his desire to become executive chairman, a move resisted by Dr Leonard.

But Eurotherm's institutional shareholders reacted angrily to the highly regarded Mr Hultman's departure — which caused a collapse in Eurotherm's share price — and immediately demanded his reinstatement.

French to extend stake in rail network

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE French utility group Compagnie Générale des Eaux is set to extend its stake in Britain's rail passenger network by taking control of its second franchise — the busy South Eastern commuter line.

London & South Coast, a subsidiary of the company's transport arm CGEA — was yesterday named by the Government's franchising director as its "preferred" bidder for the line.

South Eastern ranks among the four biggest franchises in terms of passenger revenue, earning £215 million in 1994/95, and employs just over 4,000 staff. The line operates out of six London termini in Surrey, Kent and Sussex and attracts an annual government subsidy of nearly £150 million.

The franchise is also a controversial one because the Government fought off a potential backbench rebellion from unhappy Tory MPs in Kent by promising that the replacement of old-fashioned slam door trains would be a requirement for the new owner.

Winchester 'spurned by bank'

CREDIT Lyonnais, the troubled French bank, appears to have ordered its metals broking subsidiary in London to terminate a profit sharing agreement with Winchester Commodities, the British metals trader, two years ago, according to an internal document received by the Guardian.

Winchester, which handled a large portion of business in the copper market carried out by Sumitomo Corporation's disgraced dealer, Yasuo Hamanaka, remains under scrutiny as part of an international investigation into how the Japanese group was able to run up losses of at least \$1.8 billion (£1.2 billion) through allegedly unauthorised dealings.

Chantal Lanchon, a senior executive in the Paris-based capital markets division of Credit Lyonnais, wrote to Roy Leighton and Bill Bradwell, respectively chairman and managing director of the group's London-based subsidiary, Credit Lyonnais Rouse, on July 20, 1994, stating that the firm should negotiate an end to both a 20 per cent profit/loss sharing deal and also an option for Rouse to acquire a 20 per cent stake in Winchester.

Obviously this negotiation should prevent you from determining a formula of sharing commissions or other revenue from reciprocal business in the best interest of CL Rouse, but I want CL Rouse to remain immune from any risk in another company's results, without being a shareholder, which anyway is not to be considered," the memo says.

Something has to give when the Greeks' two greatest national pastimes clash

Helen Smith in Athens

JUST when Greek gamblers thought they were on a winning streak, they have been told they will be forced to prove, if they go on betting, that they are honest taxpayers.

In January the Greek "Iron Lady" has made curtailing the nation's new national sport a personal mission, in the wake of reports that innumerable players have gone bankrupt on the gambling floor.

This summer, Ms Papandreou pledged that she will submit draft legislation in parliament to limit casino operating hours and force operators to provide a copy of their tax returns before playing. The provision of the latter will, she hopes,

help crack down on her compatriots' other national pastime — tax evasion. The move has not won the minister many friends at home and, in the case of foreign consortiums which have invested heavily in the casinos, even fewer abroad.

US consortium Maroon Enterprises, which has had its licence for a vast seaside gambling complex revoked, has now brought a \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) lawsuit against the Greek government. Last week, in an unprecedented move, a US federal court summoned the minister to respond to the suit.



Notebook

Rate decision riven with politics



Edited by Mark Milner

YESTERDAY, the Bank of England told the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in what were (for the Old Lady) pretty robust terms that, far from looking for another cut in interest rates, he should bend his mind to thinking about an increase.

but the Conservatives still lost the election it might well be an incoming Labour Chancellor who had a tough decision to take in the early days of office.

Vanguard Standard

IT SAYS much about the state of the British economy that NatWest and Barclays like to use surplus cash to buy back their own shares. By contrast, the prospects in Standard Chartered's Far East franchise are so tempting that it is looking for expansion — even in Hong Kong where the last British flag will be lowered in less than 500 days.

Far from suffering from falling confidence, business in run up to the colony's takeover by China (where Standard generates 35 per cent of its business) is booming. Taking in the entire Pacific Rim region, trading profit from personal banking was up by more than 40 per cent.

The only question now is how long Standard can keep up this level of growth. The main uncertainty hangs over its heavy exposure to the Far East home loans market where it is a major participant.

As governments look to put their own property markets on a better footing, Standard is continuing to put its own house in order by pressing ahead with a rationalisation programme which has trimmed its cost income ratio from more than 60 per cent to just under 55 per cent.

Certainly this set of results should put to rest longstanding bid speculation which has consistently made Standard the favourite bid target in the entire banking sector. With a market valuation of £5.9 billion, it has priced itself out of the market. Even for British banks looking for ways of spending surplus cash.

Institutions act

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders are usually reluctant to use their clout in public, which is what makes yesterday's settlement of the boardroom bust-up at Eurotherm so unusual.

The tradition is that the management should run the company without being second guessed by shareholders while with public action comes public accountability — or at least the public can apportion responsibility. That, however, should be discouraged: institutional investors from acting more openly, more often.

Half the country missing out on upturn in manufacturing

Sarah Ryle

HALF of Britain's regions have yet to experience the full benefits of the recovery in consumer spending and are being squeezed by the continued economic downturn in Europe, a new survey by the Confederation of British Industry showed yesterday.

However, there was some comfort for the Government in the optimism about future demand expressed by executives in the five regions.

The survey also suggested inflationary pressure is benign across the country, with manufacturers in most regions expecting to cut prices over the next four months.

Most of the fall in total orders experienced by the five regions was a result of falling demand for manufactured exports, he said, and he expected rising consumer spending and export demand to supply the biggest boost to order books.

Table with columns for country and bank selling rates. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.

SPORTS NEWS 13 Swinburn and Dettori return



FRANKIE Dettori returns to the saddle at Newmarket tomorrow night, some two months after fracturing his elbow in a parade-ring fall at Newbury... Swinburn, who suffered head, shoulder and rib injuries in a life-threatening fall in Hong Kong in February...

Racing Brighton a breeze for Easterby

Chris Hawkins AFTER 35 years as a trainer, Mick Easterby paid his first visit to Brighton yesterday and was so impressed that he could not understand why he hadn't been before... Looking out from the top of the stands with the sun reflecting off the sea it was hard to argue with him...



Plain sailing... White Plains holds off Tissue Of Lies on his way to victory at Newcastle yesterday. PHOTO CARL RUTHERFORD

Pontefract with guide to the latest form

Table with 4 columns: Race No, Name, Weight, and Odds. Races 3.45 to 5.15. Includes details like '4.15 Lark Express' and '4.45 JUST DISSENT (map)'. Includes a 'FORM GUIDE' section with trainer and jockey details.

Bath runners and riders

Table with 4 columns: Race No, Name, Weight, and Odds. Races 4.00 to 5.00. Includes details like '4.00 SCARMA' and '5.00 SCARMA'. Includes a 'FORM GUIDE' section.

Yarmouth tonight

Table with 4 columns: Race No, Name, Weight, and Odds. Races 6.50 to 7.50. Includes details like '6.50 Starvaca Star' and '7.50 Dazzler'. Includes a 'FORM GUIDE' section.

Hamilton evening programme

Table with 4 columns: Race No, Name, Weight, and Odds. Races 6.50 to 8.35. Includes details like '6.50 SIK Cottage' and '8.35 RAPOSTOL'. Includes a 'FORM GUIDE' section.

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of the Wind, trained by Tony O'Neill, is to be aimed at the \$400,000 added Newmarket Exhibition Bay Races Nursery - the richest race of its kind in Europe - on August 28 after her victory at Gosforth Park yesterday...

Michael Bell who had earlier been on the mark with his 'Chris Thornton' failed to achieve a personal milestone - the 500th success of his career. Middleham-based Thornton remains on the 499 mark after Call Me was unable to deliver in the Zanussi Science Limited Stakes...

RACELINE 0930 168+. A promotional box for a racing service. Includes a table: PONTFRACHT 101, BATH 182, HAMILTON 168, YARMOUTH 203. Includes a 'FORM GUIDE' section.

SportsGuardian

European Cup: Qualifying round
First leg: Rangers 3, Alania Vladikavkaz 1

McCoist revives Rangers

Patrick Glenn

RANGERS' third goal — a close-range header by Gordon Patric from McInnes' cross — climaxed an extraordinary comeback by the Scottish champions against Russians who had seemed totally in control at half-time.

When Yasovsky, scorer of Alania's opener, hit a penalty wide a minute later, Rangers' prospects of reaching the Champions' League improved beyond measure.

Walter Smith's pre-match observation that Rangers, even at home, would have to defend well against clever, quick and perceptive opponents had begun to look like clairvoyance long before the Russians took the lead after 28 minutes.

Compact and knowledgeable at the back, authoritative and composed in midfield and incisive in the forward areas, the Alania players frequently looked capable of taking advantage of their edge in match practice.

Indeed, they would have led earlier but for Goram's fine save, leaving left to prevent Agayev's chip from squeezing in at the post after the latter had combined well with Kasimov and wrong-footed the Ibrox defence with a twinkle-toed turn.

Perhaps the most telling difference between the sides was the versatility of the Russians. They could not be compartmentalised, each one capable of filling in capably anywhere.

Agayev, nominated a defender, typified this with the move that had tested Goram.

The opening goal, therefore, was no surprise, though there seemed little threat as Paganov was fed wide on the left. But suddenly he burst past Cleland and pulled the ball back 30 yards towards Yasovsky.

The big midfielder, who had virtually orchestrated the Russian momentum, moved forward and sent a low left-foot shot into the far corner of Goram's net from just outside the penalty box.

Rangers, however, deserve great credit for the spirit which they came back in the second half. They disturbed the rhythm of their visitors not only with strength and commitment but with some fancy football too.

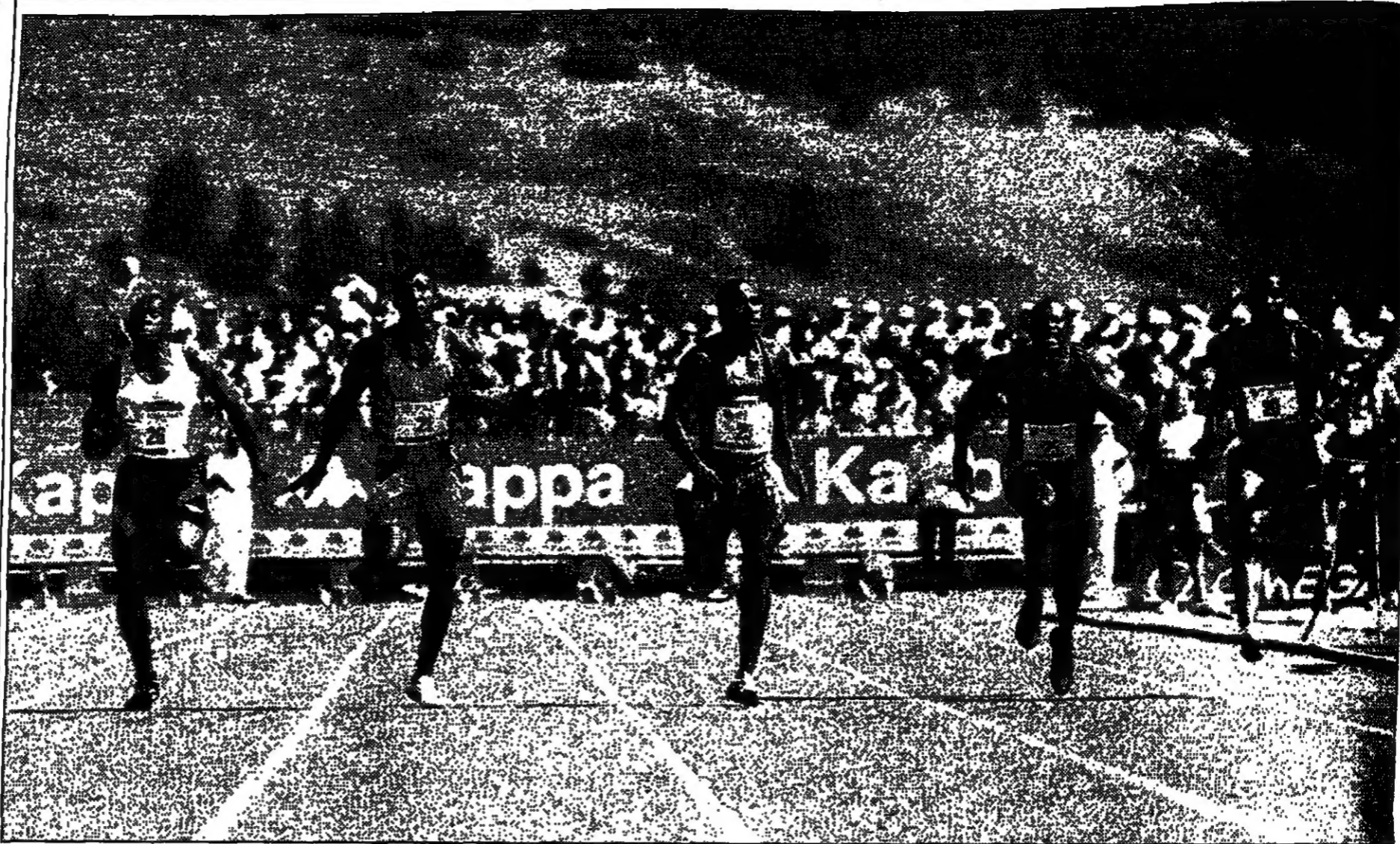
It produced an equaliser in the 51st minute. McCoist and Laudrup had already combined to bring a good save from Kramarenko when McCall's cross from the left was met by Albertz, whose header was knocked off the line by Kornienko.

But McInnes, who had replaced Ferguson in the 20th minute, drove the loose ball in past a clutter of bodies.

McCoist, who had been given a severe time by the home fans for two misplaced first-half headers, gave Rangers the lead nine minutes later. Durie, fighting hard to retain possession on the right, delivered a knee-high centre and McCoist got in front of his marker and right-footed it away to the right of Kramarenko from 12 yards. It was his first European goal for almost four years.

At the height of this black period for the Russians, Paganov, booked earlier for a foul on Laudrup, was dismissed for a second cautionable offence, a trip on Durie.

CHRISTIE BEATEN AGAIN



Faceseeters... the white-vested Bruny Surin of Canada on his way to victory over Linford Christie, second left, in the 100m at Sestriere.

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE MASON

Hammers under fire over share policy

Neil Robinson

WEST Ham United, who revel in their image as the arch-stygal family football club, are facing a revolt among ordinary shareholders nine days before the start of the season.

The row has been sparked by the board's decision to call an emergency general meeting this month at which it will recommend that shares are traded only in blocks of 100 or above. The proposal is designed to prevent an increase in the shareholding base, which has spiralled over recent years when ordi-

nary supporters have bought small holdings in the club. With West Ham shares reported to be changing hands at £200 this week, a fan determined to obtain a stake under the new rules would have to pay £20,000 for 100 shares. "It's an absolute disgrace," said Shane Barber, a lifelong fan who owns one share and runs the fanzine *On A Mission*.

"The worst thing is that they call themselves a family club and then do this, which is designed to exclude the small shareholder. We're just a bloody inconvenience."

"We only found out about this last week when we received a letter. I'm writing to every shareholder to vote against this. I've spoken to lots of other shareholders and they are equally outraged."

He said there was a general tendency within the game for the average supporter to be marginalised. Under the scheme anyone wishing to unload less than 100 shares would have to sell them en bloc to a single new owner.

The proposal is expected to be ratified at the meeting on August 22 because the board controls 90 per cent of the shares. West Ham, who have spent more than £3 million on players this summer, claim that the proposal will save on administrative costs. At least 146 supporters own a single share entitling them to a copy of the annual report. However, Barber dismisses this argument. "We're talking peanuts. They say it is to save money, but what is the cost? 146 second-class stamps."

He also criticised the timing of the meeting, at 2pm. "Normally they hold the agm in the evening but this is the middle of the working day. It will keep people away. In the past you used to get about 12 people turning up for the agm; now you have about 75 people with a really keen interest in asking pertinent questions."

Neither West Ham's chairman Terence Brown nor the chief executive Peter Storrie was available to comment yesterday.

'It's hard to work out if we are boon or burden to the club'

Mark Milner

"I've owned it for more than a quarter of a century. I have no idea what it is worth. It hasn't paid a dividend in donkey's years, and I am not sure if I could find it without turning the house upside-down. Yet I would not part with it for love or money. One share in Burnley Football Club."

Burnley has about 1,000 shareholders. Many, like me, have just a handful of shares or less. It is hard to work out whether, for the club, we are a boon or a burden. Certainly we are a cost. Each of us, however tiny our shareholding, is entitled to attend the annual meeting and to

receive the report and accounts. Printing and postage mount up. One shareholder lives in Spain; would he attend the agm? I haven't been to it that often myself. Not since the one in Burnley Central Library in the mid 1970s, amid sufficient reports of shareholder dissent to attract the interest of the television cameras.

Club shares don't change hands that often; I inherited mine. We may be in the Second Division and we may not have a stock market quotation but I still regard the share as an heirloom. My elder nephew has ruled himself out of the inheritance by supporting Everton.

Maybe it is just sentiment: a reminder of when we used to get to Wembley or when Zurich Grasshoppers played under the Turf Moor floodlights. Or maybe it's just that, despite the changed fortunes, I will be at Luton on August 17 full of hope. Anyway, I'm not selling.

BECKSENTRICS

THE WORLD OF...

THE FAIRER COP

Police in Milan have discovered that the fifth off the wheel is harder than you might think. One night, a tall, high-browed blonde aroused more than suspicion but caused a real stir when 'she' was arrested and discovered to be their police chief in disguise.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

You might call Jack Nicholson self-satisfied in a charming kind of way, quite capable of uttering deeply un-PC words about gender — "Men's glands programme them to get up after sex and go right on to the next one."

Derek Malcolm

G2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 20,726

Set by Rufus

Across

- Turned out awkward without an instructor (9)
- Public minister about to return? Quite the opposite (5)
- Fundamental shifting in cargo (7)
- One who helps another to a seat (7)
- His victim lose heart (4)
- Worker in biblical community went to America (5,5)
- Tentative suggestions put out by some animals? (7)
- Tom's nag is mixed in with others (7)
- Make too many accusations of commercial malpractice (10)
- One gentle about to become a Hindu ascetic (4)
- All waiting — to be signed? (5,2)

Down

- Goes ahead when the dogs are ready for a walk (5,2)
- A more sensible arrangement of wires (5)
- Down the line from Lancaster (9)
- Take firm action to speed things up (3,4,4,4)
- First phase of the Stone Age (5,3)
- United to make reparation (2,3)
- Form of drawing (3,5)
- Coming into season (6)
- Holiday with one's bride, darling Cynthia! (9)
- He gets the game off to a flying start! (6)
- Figure in matrimonial disputes (7,8)
- Bent on making money from an upturn in silk? (9)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,726

17 Very good article for cake decoration (8)
18 Boy admits disappearance of pocket dictionary (8)
20 Pass directions around the circuit (6)
21 Call for superior judgment (6)
23 Female subject of a popular song-cycle (5)

Solution tomorrow

Shuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 336 236. Calls cost 30p per min. Cheap rates, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATB.